



November 24, 2015
AGENDA ITEM # 10

Executive Director's Report

CENTRAL TEXAS
Regional Mobility Authority

Strategic Plan Relevance: Regional Mobility
Department: Executive
Contact: Mike Heiligenstein, Executive Director
Associated Costs: Not Applicable
Funding Source: Not Applicable
Action Requested: Briefing and Board Discussion Only

Summary:

Executive Director's Monthly Report

- A. Overview of the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) process for approval of the long range Regional Transportation Plan and the Transportation Improvement Program.
- B. Overview of the environmental process.
- C. Update on the ongoing environmental reviews for the following projects:
 - i. MoPac South;
 - ii. 183 North; and
 - iii. Oakhill Parkway.
- D. Update on the information campaign for the MoPac Improvement Project.
- E. Project schedules.

Backup provided: Executive Director's Report



PROJECT UPDATES

MoPac Improvement Project



- Drilled shaft foundations for retaining walls and soundwalls continues and is approximately 50% complete.
- Construction activities related to the 42" City waterline relocation continue at the Camp Mabry and Camp Hubbard (TxDOT facility) locations. Boring for the 60" casing under MoPac is complete – placement and grouting of the pipe will be a future activity. Receiving pit is being drilled on Westminster property to tie into existing waterline.
- Paving operations continue on the northern half of the project and specific locations on the south end to facilitate impending traffic shifts.
- The first phase of the excavation for the southbound undercrossing location is complete. Construction of the slab of the undercrossing was initiated.



New Express Lanes signage posted at Southbound MoPac just north of Parmer Lane (Oct.8)

- Installation for the shoring for the northbound undercrossing began. Major traffic shift for the northbound undercrossing is scheduled to take place in December.
- Surveys to determine the existence of threatened and endangered species in three karst features are underway near the southbound undercrossing location. Due to recent rain events, the surveys are expected now to be complete by the end of the month. To date, no listed species have been found.
- Asbestos remediation is substantially complete – only remaining work is in conjunction with removals to be performed by CH2M in the future.

183 North Mobility Project



- The Mobility Authority held a public hearing for the 183 North Mobility Project on November 12, 2015 at Westwood High School to present the preferred build alternative. The public comment period closed November 22, 2015. The virtual public hearing is available on the project website.
- The draft environmental document, including all technical memoranda and social, economic, and environmental impact evaluations, was made publicly available on October 12, 2015 for review and comment.
- The 100% schematic design is pending resolution of design exception comments and signage updates; review and approval of design exception is being coordinated with TxDOT.
- CAMPO has proposed a draft 2040 Regional Transportation Plan Amendment to update the project cost and include the additional (fourth)

general-purpose lane. The CAMPO Technical Advisory Committee conditionally approved the proposed amendment on November 18, 2015; requesting the Mobility Authority continue to investigate transit, bike, and pedestrian accommodations.



*183 North Public Hearing
November 12, 2015, Westwood High School*

- The Mobility Authority, TxDOT, and the project team continue to meet regularly with City of Austin and other stakeholders to provide status updates. Opportunities for transit expansion are currently being evaluated and coordinated with Capital Metro.
- A technical work group was held on October 28, 2015 to present the findings of the environmental study and receive feedback from mobility partners.

MoPac South Environmental Study



- A Virtual Open House was launched on October 21, 2015 to support outreach efforts for the fourth Open House held on November 10, 2015 at the Palmer Events Center. Six operational configurations were presented, including travel

time estimates for each configuration. All materials shown at the Open House were included in the Virtual Open House.

- A video was shown at the Open House that presented the results of UT's Center for Traffic Research (CTR) study of the downtown street system for 2020 (opening year). The study showed how the downtown street system would operate if Express Lanes on MoPac South were not constructed, in order to draw comparisons to how the downtown network would operate if one-lane and two-lane Express Lanes operational configurations (with and without direct connections to downtown) were constructed on MoPac South.
- Traffic simulation videos were also presented at the Open House that demonstrated the relative effectiveness of specific improvements proposed as part of each operational configuration.
- Next steps for the environmental study include narrowing the range of alternatives, presenting the short list of alternatives for review and comment at an Open House in mid-2016, and holding the public hearing to share the preferred alternative in mid-late 2016.



*MoPac South Open House
Nov. 10, Palmer Events Center*

MoPac Intersections Environmental Study

- Responses to official comments were developed and the environmental document was resubmitted to TxDOT. An environmental decision is expected later this year. Once the project is environmentally cleared, TxDOT will assume responsibility for final design and construction.

SH 45SW Environmental Study



- The Mobility Authority's design team submitted 90% design plans in October. The Mobility Authority and TxDOT are concurrently reviewing the documents.
- The design team included refinements, which would reduce environmental impacts and improve safety. These design refinements required a reevaluation of the environmental impacts in the area of the changes. The areas of reevaluation were presented to the public in a virtual open house and at two community meetings. Official comments were received from August 14th – 21st, 2015. The reevaluation documents are currently at TxDOT ENV for review and determination.
- The Mobility Authority, TxDOT, and the design team continue to meet regularly with BSEACD, City of Austin, and Travis County to provide a status update and receive input on the design approach. There have been fourteen coordination or working meetings to date.
- The development of construction plans is anticipated to be complete in January 2016. Letting for construction is expected early next year.

183 South



- Colorado River Constructors (Flour / Balfour Beatty), our design/build contractor for the 183 South Project, received NTP 1 on September 10 which allows design to commence. Design activities have begun and preliminary design submittals started to arrive in late October.

- We still anticipate construction to launch in late spring 2016.
- Staff is working to contract firms for construction inspection, survey, and materials testing.
- Project programming activities continue as the team works to finalize project funding agreements with TxDOT and FHWA in anticipation of finalizing these agreements in time for Financial Close and issuance of NTP 2.
- The team is updating the Initial Finance Plan based on TIFIA participation for approval by FHWA (TxDOT has already approved).
- Financing activities continue as we work towards financial close.
- ROW Acquisition continues in efforts to meet the commitments outlined in the D/B Contract.
- The public involvement team has scheduled a kick off meeting with Colorado River Constructors for December 2nd.

Kellam Rd. Phase I Project

- Replacement of plantings in the ponds and dead trees is ongoing.
- Signal construction on SH 71 was completed; signal was activated early November
- Signal construction on Pearce is ongoing pending electrical service from the City of Austin.

290 Toll East (Manor Expressway) Phase II Project



- CTMC is finalizing the non-conflict utility relocations required by the project to obtain Final Acceptance.
- CTMC is submitting final documentation to achieve Final Acceptance.
- Dispute Resolution Board proceedings have been scheduled for January and February to resolve outstanding issues raised by CTMC.

290 Toll (Manor Expressway) Interim Intersection Project

- The 290 East Toll/SH 130 Operational Interim Improvements was let on November 3. The bid opening will be on December 11. Construction should begin in March. We anticipate that the interim improvements could be open to traffic as early as summer 2016.
- Ultimately, when funding is identified, the Mobility Authority anticipates constructing up to three direct connector bridges between the SH 130 and 290 Toll facilities. These bridges will give drivers a free-flowing direct connection and free up mobility on the frontage road intersection underneath the toll facilities. We advertised for a final designer on November 13 and anticipate awarding a contract at the February 2016 Board Meeting.

Oak Hill Parkway Project



- On Thursday, October 29, 2015, TxDOT and the Mobility Authority held the sixth open house for the Oak Hill Parkway project. Over 155 members of the public attended to learn more about and provide comments on: an updated look at the design of Alternatives A and C, including artistic renderings of key intersections; the draft matrix for this third phase of evaluation; an update on designs and ideas for Context Sensitive Solutions including bicycle / pedestrian improvements and intersection aesthetics; and information provided at the recent Water Quality Workshop including off-site water detention.
- Significant outreach to stakeholders has continued.
- Efforts with TxDOT and the City of Austin continue for potential off-site water detention facilities.
- The design level schematics for both Alternatives A and C are being refined as the engineering aspects are reviewed and as a result of public comment from the sixth open house.
- The environmental study team will begin the robust analysis of Alternatives A, C, and the No

Build Alternative against the phase three evaluation criteria. The results of this analysis will indicate the preferred alternative. We anticipate the evaluation results as well as the full Draft Environmental Impact Statement being made available for public review and comment in mid-2016.

SH 71 Toll Lanes



- Coordination meetings between McCarthy and the Toll Integrator continue.
- Atkins and Schneider Electric continue to review design submittals and attend comment resolution meetings as necessary.
- McCarthy continues to progress design activities from 90% to Final Design.
- Earthwork activities at the SH 130 interchange continue; re-work of rain damaged areas is necessary.
- SH 71 bridge work over SH 130 has begun; approximately 1/3 of the decks have been poured; rains hampered progress
- Work on walls near Presidential is ongoing.
- McCarthy plans to complete deck on the Onion Creek Bridge in late November.
- Utility adjustments are progressing on all utilities currently with the exception of Texas Gas and are expected to be complete the end of November.
- Traffic switch to the new eastbound frontage road near FM 973 planned in the next few months

System-wide Performance Based Maintenance Contract

- The Mobility Authority is in negotiations with TxDOT for final approval their interlocal agreement (ILA) for the maintenance of Manor Expressway, MoPac Improvement Project, and 71 Express. The Board approved the recommendation of award to Roy Jorgensen, Inc at the September 30 Board Meeting. The award of the contract is contingent upon finalization of this agreement.



CENTRAL TEXAS
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BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ACCOMMODATIONS

The Mobility Authority is committed to constructing multi-modal, pedestrian-friendly facilities that enhance the region's quality of life. This commitment includes the design and implementation of Shared Use Paths (SUP), sidewalks and cross-street connections as part of every project, whenever feasible. To date, on projects currently open to traffic, the Mobility Authority investment in bicycle and pedestrian accommodations totals \$11 million. \$31 million more is invested in projects under construction. Additional investments are planned for projects currently under environmental study.

OPEN TO TRAFFIC

183A

Approximate investment: \$6.5 million

- A seven-mile SUP borders the 183A facility from South Brushy Creek to Hero Way
- The 10-foot-wide facility is separated from the roadway, allowing cyclists and pedestrians to travel the corridor safely
- The facility includes a trailhead, as well as a pedestrian bridge that crosses Brushy Creek to connect with Williamson County's Brushy Creek Regional Trail



Manor Expressway

Approximate investment: \$4.5 million

- A five-mile SUP borders the south side of the Manor Expressway frontage road from the US 183 interchange to east of SH 130
- The facility includes a dedicated SUP bridge at the Walnut Creek Tributary
- The 10-foot-wide SUP is separated from the roadway, allowing cyclists and pedestrians to travel the corridor safely
- An additional five miles of new sidewalks were constructed as part of the project
- The project also accommodated connections to the future Walnut Creek and Bergstrom Expressway SUPs



UNDER CONSTRUCTION

MoPac Improvement Project

Approximate investment: \$5 million

- The project includes a 3-mile, 10-foot-wide SUP, separated from the roadway
 - Two miles of the SUP run on the west side of the roadway from the Walnut Creek Trail to the north end of Loop 360
 - One mile crosses through the US 183 interchange and links Shoal Creek Boulevard to Neils Thompson Drive
- The project also includes four miles of new sidewalk, curb ramps and pedestrian signal heads along the frontage roads between Parmer Lane and Anderson Lane
- The project improves east/west connections at 13 MoPac cross streets, including ADA improvements, sidewalk extensions and added bike lanes



Bergstrom Expressway

Approximate investment: \$26 million

- The current design plan includes a 7-mile, 10-foot-wide, continuous SUP along Bergstrom Expressway from US 290 to SH 71
- It also adds nine miles of 6-foot-wide sidewalks and eight miles of 5-foot-wide bike lanes
- Major trailheads at the YMCA and Boggy Creek will connect with the existing Southern Walnut Creek Hike and Bike Trail
- Pedestrian bridges will be located near Manor Road/Springdale Road, 51st Street, and Bolm Road, with two additional pedestrian bridges over Boggy Creek
- Planned improvements provide connections to the Manor Expressway and SH 71 Express SUP facilities, as well as the Lance Armstrong Bikeway



UNDER STUDY

The following projects are under study and in varying phases of development. Design plans are not final. Improvements listed below are preliminary and subject to change.

MoPac South Environmental Study

Approximate investment: \$6 million

- The project would include a 10-mile, continuous pedestrian and bicycle facility from La Crosse Avenue to Lady Bird Lake
- Improvements would link to the existing city of Austin bicycle and pedestrian network along the east and west sides of the corridor

MoPac Intersections Environmental Study

- The project proposes construction of a SUP along the right-of-way line on the west side of the corridor
- The SUP would tie-in to other proposed improvements along MoPac South and the existing city of Austin bicycle and pedestrian network

Oak Hill Parkway

Approximate investment: more than \$3 million

- The project proposes construction of approximately seven miles of SUP
 - Along US 290, the SUP would connect MoPac to Circle Drive
 - Along SH 71, the SUP would run along the west side of the project between US 290 and Silvermine Drive
- Additionally, the project would provide six miles of continuous sidewalks along the corridor
- Improvements would connect with the proposed Y to Barton Creek (YBC) Trail under study by the city of Austin

183 North Mobility Project

Approximate investment: more than \$5 million

- Proposed improvements would close gaps to provide a network of continuous bike lanes between SH 45N and MoPac
- The project would provide continuous sidewalks northbound and southbound between SH 45N and Loop 360
- Two SUP segments are proposed to connect bike lanes between Jollyville Road and Pond Springs Road, and between Pond Springs Road and Lake Creek Parkway
- Cross-street connections would be provided for bicyclists at every roadway crossing under US 183 North from Pecan Park to Great Hills Trail

SH 45SW (Record of Decision pending)

Approximate investment: more than \$3 million

- The project proposes a 4.5 mile, 10-foot-wide SUP that extends from Escarpment Boulevard to FM 1626
- The SUP would be separated from the roadway, located between the toll lanes and the edge of the right-of-way
- The path will connect to the Hill Country Conservancy's future Violet Crown Trail

PARTNER PROJECTS

SH 71 Express

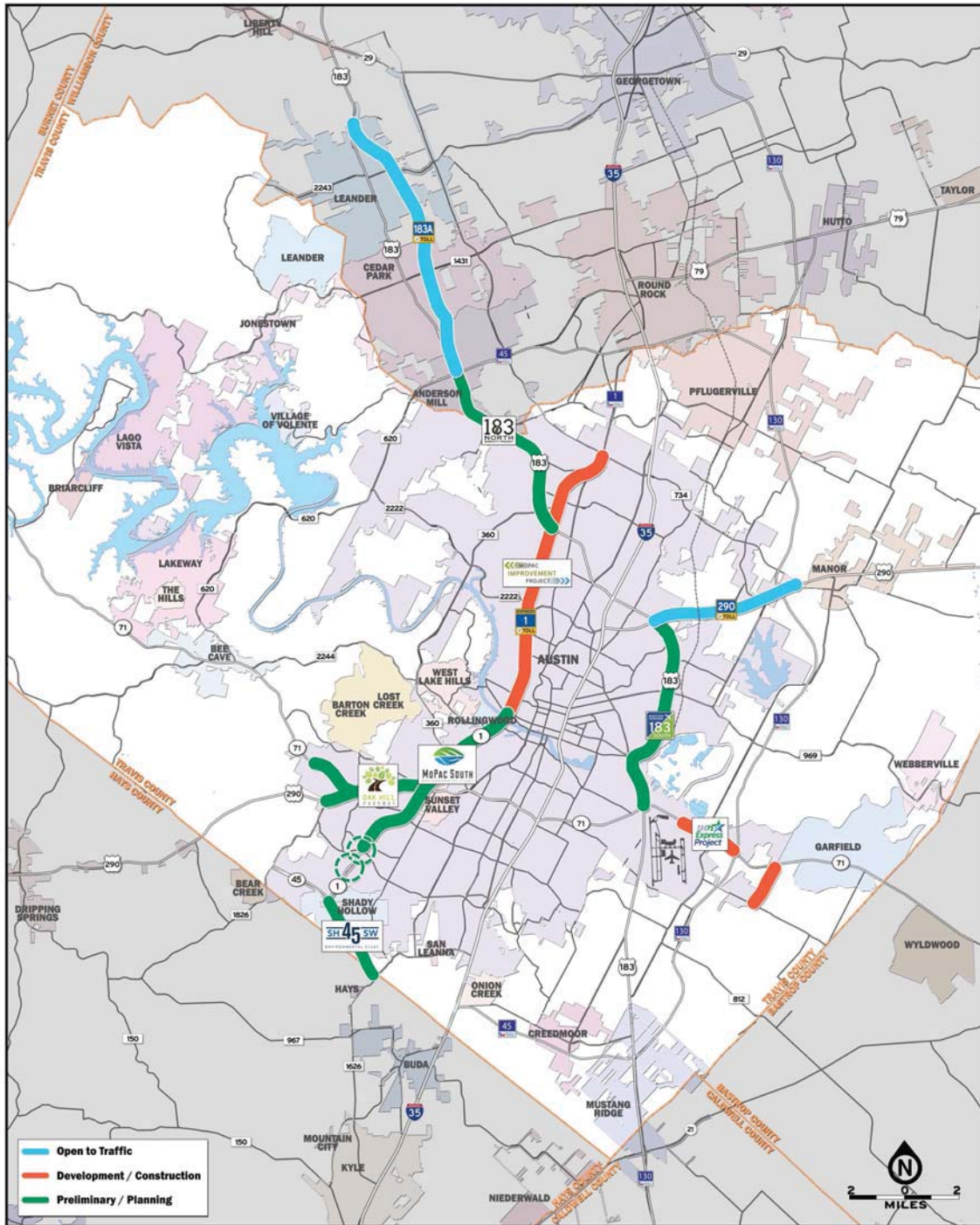
- The project includes a 5.5-mile SUP that is separated from the roadway and 1.5 miles of new sidewalk
- Improvements will connect to bicycle and pedestrian facilities under development as part of the Bergstrom Expressway Project and the Travis County Onion Creek Greenway Trail
- The Project is currently under construction, led by TxDOT, in partnership with the Mobility Authority





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BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS



PROJECT	INVESTMENT	SIDEWALK/SUP LANE MILES
OPEN TO TRAFFIC		
183 A	\$6.5 million	7 miles
Manor Expressway	\$4.5 million	10 miles
UNDER CONSTRUCTION		
MoPac Improvement Project	\$5 million	7 miles
Bergstrom Expressway	\$26 million	24 miles
SH 71 Express (partner project)	TBD	7 miles
UNDER STUDY		
MoPac South Environmental Study	\$6 million	10 miles
MoPac Intersections Environmental Study	TBD	TBD
Oak Hill Parkway	More than \$3 million	13 miles
183 North Mobility Study	More than \$5 million	9.5 miles
SH 45SW (Record of Decision pending)	More than \$3 million	4.5 miles
TOTAL INVESTMENT		
MORE THAN 90 LANE MILES AND MORE THAN \$50 MILLION		

